

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /084 W
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R 200600Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 252

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KUALA LUMPUR 3479

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MY BX UK UN

SUBJ: BRUNEI ISSUE AT UNITED NATIONS

REF: USUN 1768

1. SUMMARY: IN CONNECTION WITH ITS PETITION TO UN COMMITTEE OF
24 (REFTEL), BRUNEI PEOPLE'S PARTY WGBPP) HAS ISSUED MANIFESTO
SETTING FORTH ITS POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OBJECTIVES.
MANIFESTO, ALSO SUBMITTED BY PETITION TO BRUNEI SULTAN, CALLS FOR
REDESIGNATION OF SULTANATE AS KINGDOM WITH BPP BEING RECOGNIZED
(AT LEAST INITIALLY) AS SOLE POLITICAL PARTY. MANIFESTO CALLS
FOR RESTORATION OF ELECTED LEGISLATURE, AND REAFFIRMS
PREEMINENCE OF SULTAN AND ISLAM AS STATE RELIGION.
ALSO, MANIFESTO ENDORSES SEASIAN NEUTRAL ZONE AS PROPOSED
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BY MALAYSIA, NON-ALIGNMENT IN GLOBAL FOREIGN POLICY AND

MEMBERSHIP IN COMMONWEALTH. BRITISH DIPLOMATS HERE ARE CONCERNED OVER BPP LOBBYING ACTIVITIES IN MIDDLE EAST PRIOR TO FORMAL BPP PRESENTATION TO UN COMMITTEE OF 24. BRITISH ASSESS THAT BPP HAS LITTLE SUPPORT WITHIN BRUNEI BUT FORESEE THAT BPP AGITATION, AIDED AND ABETTED BY MALAYSIANS, WILL BE TROUBLESOME FOR SEVERAL YEARS TO COME. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON HANDLING BRUNEI ISSUE IN UN. END SUMMARY.

2. BPP MANIFESTO, WHICH ACCORDING TO COVERING LETTER WAS SENT TO BRUNEI SULTAN HASSANAL BOLKIAH ON APRIL 16, CONTAINS PLEDGE OF LOYALTY AND EXPRESSES "EARNEST EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN SOVEREIGNTY OF ROYAL FAMILY...OF FULLY INDEPENDENT BRUNEI." PETITION CONTINUES THAT BPP LEADERSHIP IS "STRIVING" FROM "NEIGHBORING COUNTRY" TO OBTAIN FULL INDEPENDENCE FROM BRUNEI AND SETS FORTH STATE IDEOLOGY BASED ON BELIEF IN ISLAM, NATIONALISM AND DEMOCRACY. BPP PROPOSES BI-CAMERAL LEGISLATURE: SULTAN'S COUNCIL AND ELECTIVE LOWER HOUSE; BPP INITIALLY WOULD BE ONLY ORGANIZED POLITICAL PARTY IN STATE, BUT SULTAN COULD APPOINT MEMBERS TO "OPPOSITION BENCH" IF THERE NO OPPOSITION PARTY OR INDEPENDENT BLOC IN LOWER HOUSE.

3. MANIFESTO ALLEGES THAT PRESENT MEMBERS OF BRUNEI GOVERNMENT ARE "EITHER COLONIAL STOOGES OR TRADITIONALISTS WHOSE MENTAL CAPACITY AND RESPECT HAVE BEEN TOTALLY CORRUPTED BY THEIR COLONIAL MASTERS...THEY HAVE NO PRINCIPLES, POLITICALLY NAIVE, AND ABOVE ALL, THEY LACK SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE...." ONLY BPP, ACCORDING TO MANIFESTO, POSSESSES "POLITICAL IMAGINATION, ADEQUATE MEASURE OF POLITICAL TRAINING AND FULL SUPPORT OF PEOPLE." FOREIGN POLICY WOULD CONSIST OF MEMBERSHIP IN UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS; "NEUTRAL AND ACTIVE" ORIENTATION; COMMONWEALTH MEMBERSHIP; FUTURE RELATIONS WITH HMG BASED ON COMMONWELALTH PRINCIPLES AND "SPIRIT OF NON-INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS"; ASEAN MEMBERSHIP; SUPPORT OF MALAYSIAN CONCEPT OF SEASIA NEUTRALITY ZONE; SUPPORT OF ARABS ON JERUSALEM AND UNCONDITIONAL WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAEL FROM ALL ARAB LANDS; ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY AND PARTICIPATION IN ISLAMIC CONFERENCE; SUPPORT OF BANDUNG DECLARATION AND AFRO-ASIAN SOLIDARITY; AND ADHERENCE TO "DUAL CONFIDENTIAL

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PRINCIPLES OF CONSULTATION AND CONSENSUS IN SOLVING INTERNATIONAL CONFLICTS." ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INITIATIVES ENUMERATED IN MANIFESTO APPEAR TO BE CONTINUATION OF PRESENT BRUNEI GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, BUT BPP ALSO PROPOSES SPECIAL PENSIONS TO FORMER NORTH KALIMANTAN NATIONAL ARMY (TNKU) CADRES AND ESTABLISHMENT OF "HASSANAL BOLKIAH UNIVERSITY." BPP MANIFESTO WAS REPORTED IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA ENGLISH AND MALAY LANGUAGE PRESS JUNE 6 AND 7 BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO EDITORIAL OR

OFFICIAL COMMENT. (TEXT OF MANIFESTO WILL BE SENT ALL ADDRESSEES.)

4. BRITISH HICOMOFFS TOLD US JUNE 18 THAT THEY VIEW MANIFESTO AS COMPLEMENT TO PETITION SUBMITTED IN LATE MAY TO UN COMMITTEE OF 24 (REFTEL) AND AS PART OF LONG-RANGE CAMPAIGN TO GENERATE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR BPP AND TO EMBARRASS HMG. BRITISH REALIZE THAT BPP APPROACH TO COMMITTEE OF 24 CANNOT BE FRUSTRATED BUT HOPE THAT MODERATE MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE WILL ASSIST IN LIMITING PUBLIC RELATIONS DAMAGE. THEY ADD THAT IT IS UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE MAJOR CHANGES IN HMG-BRUNEI RELATIONSHIP AS LONG AS SERI BEGAWAN IS ALIVE AND AS LONG AS GURKHA TROOPS REMAIN IN BRUNIEM GURKHA WITHDRAWAL, THEY SAID, IS TENTATIVELY SET FOR 1978 BUT SULTAN AND SERI BEGAWAN STILL INSIST THAT TROOPS STAY ON LONGER. (SERI BEGAWAN, SIR OMAR, IS SULTAN'S FATHER AND IS REAL POWER BEHIND THRONE. HE IS ALSO DEDICATED ANGLOPHILE.)

5. REGARDING MALAYSIAN SUPPORT OF BPP, HICOMOFFS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT WILL BE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR HMG TO IGNORE GOM'S ROLE PUBLICLY AS BPP AIRS ITS VIEWS IN UN AND SHOPS AROUND FOR INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT. BRITISH HICOMS HERE AND IN BRUNEI BELIEVE THAT GOM IS SUPPORTING BPP AT INSISTENCE OF SARAWAK CHIEF MINISTER DATUK RAHMAN YA'KUB WHO HAS BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN FINANCING BPP ROVING DELEGATIONS AND IN AIDING INFILTRATION OF BPP CADRES AND PROPAGANDA INTO BRUNEI. THEY BELIEVE RAHMAN YA'KUB HAS USED BRUNEI ISSUE AS DIVERSION FROM SARAWAK'S INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND AS NATIONALISTIC ISSUES TO SILENCE POLITICAL OPPOSITION WHICH DOES NOT SUPPORT HIS POLITICAL ADVENTURISM AND FEUD WITH SERI BEGAWAN (SEE K.L. A-001, 1/2/75, FOR BACKGROUND ON SARAWAK-BRUNEI RELATIONS). BRITISH HEAD OF CHANCERY (GEE) REMARKED THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE PM RAZAK PERSONALLY ENDORSES ALL ASPECTS OF RAHMAN YA'KUB'S SUPPORT OF BPP, ALTHOUGH GOM LEADERS GENERALLY BELIEVE THAT ONE DAY BRUNEI WILL BECOME CONFIDENTIAL

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PART OF MALAYSIAN FEDERATION.

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /084 W

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R 290600Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 253

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

6. BRITISH DO NOT FEEL THAT BPP HAS SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT WITHIN BRUNEI. THEY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT MANY YOUNGER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EDUCATED BRUNEIANS, HOWEVER, WOULD LIKE TO MOVE TOWARD RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTIVE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BUT BELIEVE THIS GROUP DOES NOT SUPPORT BPP RADICALS. BRITISH HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT SULTAN AND SERI BEGAWAN CAN BE PERSUADED TO RESTORE POPULARLY-ELECTED GOVERNMENT IN NEXT YEAR OR TWO IN ORDER TO CUT GROUND FROM UNDER BPP.

7. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION JUNE 16 WITH GOM FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS (K.L. 3419, NOTAL), WE WERE TOLD THAT BPP MAY TRY TO ENLIST SUPPORT AT ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR MID-JULY IN JIDDA, A MOVE THAT GOM DOES NOT FAVOR. BRITISH BELIEVE BPP WILL PROBABLY NOT OBTAIN SUPPORT OF MODERATE MUSLIM STATES AT
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CONFERENCE (ESPECIALLY SAUDI ARABIA AND GULF SHEIKDOMS) BUT RADICAL NATIONS SUCH AS LIBYA AND ALGERIA MAY BE PERSUADED TO PROVIDE MONEY AND MATERIAL SUPPORT FOR BPP EXILES. BRITISH SEE REAL POSSIBILITY THAT ARMS AND TRAINING PROVIDED BY RADICAL ARAB STATES COULD CONVERT BPP POLITICAL MOVEMENT INTO ARMED FORCE OPERATING FROM MALAYSIAN TERRITORY.

8. BRITISH HOPE TO DEAL WITH BRUNEI PROBLEM IN UN BY

ENCOURAGING MODERATE MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE OF 24 (PERHAPS AUSTRALIA, EUROPEANS AND INDONESIA) THAT IT IS NOT IN ANYONE'S INTEREST TO LET BRUNEI "TEMPEST IN TEAPOT" GET OUT OF HAND. BRITISH SAY THAT THEIR POSITIONS ON FUTURE POLITICAL RELATIONSHIP WITH BRUNEI AND RESTORATION OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT ARE REASONABLE AND CONSTRUCTIVE, ALBEIT LIMITED BY PRESENT UNWILLINGNESS OF SULTAN AND SERI BEGAWAN TO MAKE CHANGES. BRITISH ENVISION THAT THEY WILL HAVE TO FIGHT A "HOLDING ACTION" FOR SEVERAL YERS UNTIL CLIMATE FOR LIBERALIZATION IS DEVELOPED WITHIN BRUNEI AND UNTIL HMG CAN TERMINATE PROTECTORATE RELATIONSHIP.

9. COMMENT: BRITISH DIPLOMATS HERE ARE CLEARLY FRUSTRATED BY CURRENT SITUATION IN WHICH HMG HAS LITTLE LEVERAGE ON BRUNEI GOVERNMENT, AT SAME TIME SEEKING TO KEEP RELATIONS WITH MALAYSIA ON EVEN KEEL. THEY HAVE ENCOURAGED GOM OFFICIALS, ALTHOUGH NOT AT HIGH LEVEL, TO PREVENT UNTOWARD INCIDENTS IN SARAWAK - BRUNEI BORDER AREA, AN EFFORT THAT HAS LARGELY BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN PAST SIX MONTHS OR SO, AND TO ABANDON SUPPORT OF BPP IN INTEREST OF SEASIAN PEACE AND STABILITY. BRITISH HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT MALAYSIA WILL NOT SPEAK BEFORE COMMITTEE OF 24 ON BPP'S BEHALF BUT THEY ASSUME GOM'S PRIVATE LOBBYING IN UN WILL CONTINUE.

10. IN CONVERSATION REPORTED ABOVE, BRITISH INDICATED THEY WERE NOT ACTING ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM LONDON BUT THEY SEEMED TO BE LOOKING FOR INDICATION OF U.S. WILLINGNESS TO AID THEM IN KEEPING ISSUE TAMPED DOWN IN UN. THEY MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF LIMITING SIZE OF BPP DELEGATION TO COMMITTEE OF 24 SESSION (WE HAVE INFORMED THEM OF VISA REQUEST PER CAIRO 5652) AND OUR WORKING WITH THEM IN QUIET LOBBYING AMONG MODERATE MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE. WE WOULD WELCOME DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS ON HANDLING OF BRUNEI ISSUE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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UN AS GUIDE FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION WITH BRITISH.
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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